

CONFIDENTIAL.]

REPORT

[No. 34 of 1881.]

ON

NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 20th August 1881.

LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of newspapers.	Place of publication.	Number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
BENGALI.				
Monthly.				
1	"Bhārat Shramajīvi"	Calcutta	2,100	Ashar, 1288 B.S.
2	"Grāmvartā Prakāshikā"	Comercolly	175	
Fortnightly.				
3	"Sansodhinī"	Chittagong	600	15th August 1881.
4	"Purva Pratidhwani"	Ditto	.....
Weekly.				
5	"Ananda Bazar Patrikā"	Calcutta	700	8th ditto.
6	"Arya Darpan"	Ditto	.....	19th ditto.
7	"Bhārat Bandhu"	Ditto	.....	9th ditto.
8	"Bhārat Mihir"	Mymensing	671	
9	"Bengal Advertiser"	Calcutta	2,000	16th ditto.
10	"Bardwān Sanjivani"	Burdwan	296	
11	"Chāruvartā"	Sherepore, Mymensing	.....	8th ditto.
12	"Dacca Prakāsh"	Dacca	350	14th ditto.
13	"Dūt"	Calcutta	.....	12th ditto.
14	"Education Gazette"	Hooghly	745	
15	"Halisahar Prakāshikā"	Calcutta	.....	13th ditto.
16	"Hindu Ranjikā"	Beauleah, Rājshāhye...	200	17th ditto.
17	"Medinī"	Midnapore	.....	6th ditto.
18	"Murshidābād Patrikā"	Berhampore	487	12th ditto.
19	"Murshidābād Pratinidhi"	Ditto	.....
20	"Navavibhākar"	Calcutta	850	8th ditto.
21	"Paridarshak"	Sylhet	.....	7th and 14th August 1881.
22	"Pratikār"	Berhampore	275	12th August 1881.
23	"Rungpore Dik Prakāsh"	Kakiniā, Rungpore	250	11th ditto.
24	"Sādhārani"	Chinsurah	500	14th ditto.
25	"Sahachar"	Calcutta	500	10th ditto.
26	"Som Prakāsh"	Changripottā, 24-Perghs.	.....	15th ditto.
27	"Sudhākar"	Mymensing	.....	13th ditto.
28	"Sulabha Samāchār"	Calcutta	4,000	
29	"Srihatta Prakāsh"	Sylhet	440	
30	"Tripurā Vartāvaha"	Commillah	.....
Daily.				
31	"Samvād Prabhākar"	Calcutta	700	12th to 18th August 1881.
32	"Samvād Purnachandrodaya"	Ditto	300	11th to 20th ditto.
33	"Samāchār Chandrikā"	Ditto	625	15th and 16th ditto.
34	"Banga Vidyā Prakāshikā"	Ditto	500	17th and 19th ditto.
35	"Prabhāti"	Ditto	.....
36	"Samāchār Sudhābarsan"	Ditto	.....
ENGLISH AND URDU.				
Weekly.				
37	"Urdu Guide"	Ditto	365	13th August 1881.
HINDI.				
Weekly.				
38	"Behār Bandhu"	Bankipore, Patna	500	11th ditto.
39	"Bhārat Mitra"	Calcutta	500	11th ditto.
40	"Sār Sudhānidhi"	Ditto	200	8th and 15th August 1881.
41	"Uchit Baktā"	Ditto	.....	13th August 1881.
PERSIAN.				
Weekly.				
42	"Jām-Jahān-numā"	Ditto	250	12th ditto.
URDU.				
Weekly.				
43	"Akhhār-i-Darussaltanat"	Ditto	.....
ASSAMESE.				
Monthly.				
44	"Assam Vilāsinī"	Sibsagar	.....

POLITICAL.

ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
August 8th, 1881.

THE *Ananda Bazar Patriká*, of the 8th August, observes, in an article on Afghan affairs, that the fears of those who at one time when the British Government was anxiously advertising for an Ameer for Afghanistan, hesitated to offer themselves as candidates for the office, have now been removed by witnessing the part played by Abdur Rahman. They are now convinced that playing an Ameer under British patronage is really a profitable business. It seemed as if Abdur Rahman had conferred a great favour upon the British Government by becoming Ameer. Like a spoilt child, he began to ask now for this thing and then another. Government gave him the throne of Cabul, large quantities of arms and ammunition, and the province of Candahar, besides making him a present of fifty lakhs of rupees. Thus, Abdur Rahman in one year managed to secure more money and arms than had been obtained by Shere Ali in ten years. But the Ameer was not satisfied with this, but forcibly levied contributions from the merchants and wealthy sirdars. Not a pice of all this money has he spent in Afghanistan. Everything has been sent to Turkistan, whither also he is about to flee. In this Afghan business the British Government has been outwitted at every step.

SAHACHAR,
August 10th, 1881.

2. In commenting upon the situation in Afghanistan, the *Sahachar*, of the 10th August, refers to the marked preference which the Afghans appear to show for Ayub Khan and to their dislike of Abdur Rahman. If Ayub succeeds in wresting the Ameership from his rival, the policy of the British Government should be one of non-interference.

SOM PRAKASH,
August 15th, 1881.

3. Writing on the same subject the *Som Prakash*, of the 15th August, points out the desirability on the part of the British Government of having a friendly, strong, and united Afghanistan as a neighbour. Government should not interfere in its affairs, but be on its guard that its integrity and independence are not destroyed either by Russia or Persia, both of which powers are anxious to annex a portion of Afghan territory. It is also desirable that England should make a firm alliance with Persia, guaranteeing her against foreign invasion.

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION.

MEDINI,
August 6th, 1881.

4. The *Medini* of the 6th August, contains a Bengali translation of what purports to have been the farewell address of Mr. Price to Midnapore. We give below an English translation of the address : —

Steamer "Cossye," the 1st August 1881.

Residents of Midnapore! I leave your station with flying colours. You tried not a little to injure me, but have not been able to do anything to me beyond this that I have now been confirmed in the first grade of Magistrates. You had expected that the Lieutenant-Governor would direct my dismissal from the service, would at least place me a grade lower. But see [here is a mark on the paper which we could not make out; a friend says that it is the mark of the thumb] I am going to Mymensingh as a first grade Magistrate of permanent rank.

You, it seems, believe that newspapers possess a magical influence; but indeed you are not aware that in this country a white skin acts as an invulnerable armour against all manner of weapons. I have that white skin. Could you do any harm to me by writing in a newspaper? Of course, if the object of attack had been a Bengali, a thunderbolt would have fallen upon his head from Belvedere and consumed him. I am not, however, a dark-skinned native, but a white-skinned European. For me the sky is perfectly

serene, and nothing indicates the wrath of the gods. The rebuke administered by Government has been to me as innocuous as the music of the rolling clouds gilt by the rays of the sun, and moved about by the gentle breezes of the spring. This rebuke has nothing dreadful or harsh about it. I did not in the least fear it. Witness my merrily spending the few days I remained at Midnapore after my return from England in the company of my friends, the indigo planters, and the circumstance that I now leave behind all my things in their houses. You had thought that the *Mediní* paper would cause my ruin. Well, I do not know what to say to that; but if Government had kept me here for some days longer, I would have shaken the *Mediní* (that is, the earth or the *Mediní* newspaper), and shown what troubles a dark-skinned native would bring upon himself if he ever quarrelled with a European.

Be that what it may, residents of Midnapore I now leave your station. Those noble-minded persons that look upon a Magistrate as an angel in human form laboured during my absence to the best of their ability to preserve my name unsullied. I shall be ever grateful to them. To you, what shall I give? You have done me great harm. To you, what shall I say? [Do you see this? Here also is the mark of the thumb.]

(Sd.) J. C. PRICE.

5. The same paper contains a long article headed the Conquerors and the Conquered. The writer Condemns the spirit of self-sufficiency which marks the British in

The conquerors and the conquered.

India. They cannot bear the criticism of public measures by the natives of the country, who are regarded as unfit to pronounce any opinions even on questions affecting their own welfare. The rulers would seem to have a conviction that they are infallible, and that everything they do is for the benefit of the people of India. In short, the rulers cannot bear any contradiction, particularly if it comes from the conquered. The time, however, has gone by when the people could acquiesce in this state of things. They are grateful to the British Government for the benefits it has conferred upon them, but, being a subject people, are aggrieved by even the slightest disregard of their feelings. The invidious distinction made between Europeans and natives is making the British Government unpopular with not a few educated persons in this country.

6. The *Paridarshak*, of the 7th August, notices with regret the increasing high-handedness of officers in the Police Department. It is really to be regretted

The Police.

that Government unduly favours the police; and hence police officers, even when guilty of grave offences—offences for which others would be severely punished—are let off with nominal punishment. The department requires a thorough reform. For its acts of oppression, the police has come to be dreaded and shunned by all respectable men. It is recruited from the illiterate classes, and its shortcomings will not be removed until Government makes it possible for men of education to seek service in it.

7. We extract the following observations from an article in the *Navavibhakar*, of the 8th August:—The mildest roar of the lion is enough to disturb

The defence of Dr. Lethbridge, the Inspector-General of Jails.

the repose of persons whose repose could not be disturbed by the bleatings of whole flocks of sheep. The newspapers of India, both Vernacular and English, had so long condemned the principles of jail administration followed in this country, while hundreds of time-expired native convicts had dwelt upon the defective management of the jails, and the oppressions committed by jailors; but no one paid any heed to their representations. But now that Mr. O'Donnell has raised the question in Parliament, a great deal of agitation is going on. The

MEDINI,
August 6th, 1881.

PARIDARSHAK,
August 7th, 1881.

NAVAVIBHAKAR,
August 8th, 1881.

observations made by native newspapers are the outcome of malice; the statements of time-expired native convicts are not worth anything, and not therefore to be trusted; the complaints made by natives of the country should not be listened to; one must not receive instruction from those that are competent to teach; the complaints that ought to be listened to must not be listened to; the measures that ought to be adopted for the good of the people must not be adopted: such seems to be the policy which has so long guided officials in this country. Officials in India seldom pay any heed to any statements that are not agreeable to them. Good advice is often taken by them in a contrary light; and the effect of this soon becomes apparent. This was witnessed more than once in the time of Sir George Campbell. His policy of jail administration was loudly protested against by the newspapers, but in vain. He did what he thought best. The prisons now became really dreadful. After a few years Lord Lytton took up the subject of jail administration, and entrusted three eminent medical officers with the task of reporting thereon. A very low scale of diet was prescribed by them. This also was protested against by newspapers, but in vain. Dr. Lethbridge introduced the scale in the jails under his charge, and the result was a fearful increase of mortality among the convict population. The eyes of Dr. Lethbridge and of his chief, Sir Ashley Eden, were now opened; but the unfortunate convicts that had perished of starvation could not of course be brought back to life. The plea urged by Dr. Lethbridge that the higher mortality in the Maldah Jail was due to the unhealthiness of that district will not avail him anything. Maldah was not healthier five years before, and yet the mortality among the prisoners was then less. The fact is the increased death-rate was due to the restrictive scale of diet that was introduced. The fact cannot be disputed, and it is idle to do so by resorting to fallacious and plausible arguments. Dr. Lethbridge's letter to the *Times*, attempting a justification of his own conduct, as well as that of his master, will not answer any purpose whatever. There are many persons who can let the public into the secrets of the jail administration, and there is every reason to believe that Mr. O'Donnell will have all the information that he may require. No one has of course better opportunities of judging of the defects of the present system of prison discipline than Dr. Lethbridge; that he has therefore, in spite of all the information at his disposal, resorted to fallacious arguments, only shows his ignorance of sound reasoning. That he has in a large measure reformed the jail administration is admitted by everybody, and Bengal is grateful to him for it; but he has not done well by resorting to fallacious arguments. Discussions in Parliament on the subject of Indian jails cannot but lead to beneficial consequences, and replies could best be given after explanations had been asked for. An attempt to anticipate an enquiry cannot fail to cause amusement at the expense of him who makes such an attempt, and to shake the confidence of the public in the official who shows such forwardness. It is also noteworthy that, although Dr. Lethbridge is known to be opposed to the practice of flogging, he has still sought to justify it, apparently to throw dust in the eyes of the members of Parliament. In conclusion, the Inspector-General of Jails is asked to mix with the people in order that he may learn their views respecting the treatment extended to the prisoners in the jails.

NAVAVIBHAKAR,
August 8th, 1881.

8. Nothing would give us greater pleasure, says the same paper, than to see the existing small village punchayets gradually developing themselves into municipalities, and teaching self-government to the people. It is not, however, desirable that the punchayets should gradually become such municipalities as those now witnessed in this country. What the

The Village Punchayets.

punchayet should ultimately make way for is a reformed municipality, where the inhabitants possess the elective franchise. The municipalities, where the inhabitants do not enjoy this privilege, are not much appreciated, and are looked upon simply as a machinery for collecting taxes. Indeed the collection of the taxes would seem to be the chief duty of a municipality, and everything else done by it is but a means to this end. The object, however, for which the taxes are levied is not much attended to. The condition of roads and markets is often extremely wretched. The villages abound in dense jungle, and are infested with wild beasts. The money raised by taxes from the poor is mostly applied for the purpose of maintaining a police which lord it over its masters. The municipality has no power of control over the police, and this appears to be a grave defect. There should be introduced in every village the elective system of municipal government, and the elective franchise should be conferred upon all, thus enabling those who pay the rates to check the expenditure of the proceeds thereof. The village punchayets should be vested with increased powers. At present they are entirely at the mercy of the police and of the District Magistrates, and, while weighted with responsibilities, do not possess any power over the chowkidars. The members of the punchayet should be granted increased liberty.

9. A correspondent of the same paper directs the attention of the authorities to the inequitable assessment with the chowkidari tax in Salipore. The chowkidari tax of the inhabitants of Salipore, in sub-division Busseerhat, by the local punchayet.

NAVAVIBHAKAR,
August 8th, 1881.

10. The *Cháru Vártá*, of the 8th August, observes that the object of Government in resuscitating the Agricultural Department at the instance of the Famine Commissioners is doubtless a good one, but whether much good will come of it is open to question. If all that is done is the appointment of a few officers on high salaries, the only result will be the waste of public money. What benefits did the Agricultural Department, which was established by Lord Mayo in 1870, and was in existence for ten years, confer on the country? The native peasantry have not much to learn in growing their ordinary crops; while as to their ability to profit by instructions on agriculture according to scientific principles, there is room for considerable doubt. They are at present sunk in poverty and debt, and it is simply impossible for them to bear the costs of improved agriculture.

CHARU VARTA,
August 8th, 1881.

11. The same paper fully approves of the arrangement recently sanctioned by the Lieutenant-Governor for the employment of certain Munsifs solely for the trial of rent suits.

CHARU VARTA.

12. A correspondent of the same paper dwells on the maltreatment of the labourers employed in the Chubidahar, the Maynadahar, and the Bhuvandahar tea-gardens by the proprietors thereof. These gardens are three days' journey from Cachar. There are no good roads leading to them, or any populous locality in their vicinity. Provisions are both scarce and dear. The climate is unhealthy; about 75 per cent. of the labourers is always sick. The doctors attached to the gardens are inefficient and inattentive to their patients. Add to this, the maltreatment the labourers are subjected to at the hands of their employers.

CHARU VARTA.

13. The *Ananda Bazar Patriká*, of the 8th August, publishes long accounts of two cases of magisterial high-handedness, and asks Lord Ripon's interference. The first case is that of Mr. Coxhead, Magistrate of Dinagepore, who recently treated a Deputy Inspector of Schools most arbitrarily; and the

ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
August 8th, 1881.

second refers to the proceedings of Mr. Slack, the Sub-Divisional Officer of Meherpore, in Nuddea, in the matter of the disputes between Mr. Macnaughten, an indigo-planter, and his tenantry of the village of Anandabas.

BHARAT MIHIR,
August 9th, 1881.

14. The *Bhārat Mihir*, of the 9th August, protests against the practice on the part of the Government of India of annually sojourning in Simla. It involves enormous expenditure, and interferes with the due discharge of the duties of his office by the Viceroy. [The observations made by the writer have been repeatedly noticed before.]

BHARAT MIHIR.

15. The same paper commends the arrangement sanctioned by the Lieutenant-Governor for employing certain Munsifs solely for the trial of rent suits.

SAHACHAR,
August 10th, 1881.

16. The *Sahachar*, of the 10th August, remarks that, by pleading Dr. Lethbridge's letter to the *Times*, his own cause, Dr. Lethbridge has but acted foolishly. In order that he might be able to throw dust into the eyes of the public, he has, in his letter to the *Times* on the subject of jail mortality in Bengal, resorted to specious reasoning. [The other observations made in this article are similar to those noticed in paragraph 7.]

SAHACHAR.

17. The same paper exhorts the native public to act energetically in the matter of the Doorga Pooja holidays which the European merchants of Calcutta, through their organ in the press, the *Englishman*, are so anxious to see curtailed. The subject should receive the attention of the Viceroy. Any interference with these holidays will deeply wound the feelings of the Hindus.

SADHARANI,
August 14th, 1881.

18. The *Sādhārani*, of the 14th August, contains an article on the roads in the Hooghly district, which are now in a miserable condition. Out of the eight roads, only two are practicable throughout the year. The remaining six become impassable in the rainy season, and yet there is a highly paid Engineer to look after these roads, and a Committee composed of influential men to sanction estimates of costs for road-making; while more than a lakh of rupees is annually raised in this district from the road cess.

SADHARANI.

19. The same paper asks Government to supply native Editors with a copy of the weekly report on native papers, or at least to furnish each Editor with a copy of the translated extract made from his paper. If this were done, the Editors would be able to rectify any errors which might be made in translating extracts from their papers.

SADHARANI.

20. The same paper dwells in a long article on the utter inefficiency of the rural police. They do not preserve the peace, but disturb it. They needlessly harass people, and are seldom found when wanted. They lack education and principle.

SOM PRAKASH,
August 15th, 1881.

21. The *Som Prakāsh*, of the 15th August, contains a long article extending over six columns on the ability with which educated natives have always discharged the duties of any responsible office to which they have been appointed. Unfortunately their interests are found to clash with those of Englishmen, and thus Government and Anglo-Indians are constantly casting about for means whereby they might be excluded from all offices of trust and responsibility. Thus to exclude them from the benefit of the Civil Service, a certain limit of age was fixed by the Secretary of State. Objection is being made by certain Anglo-Indian officials to place their children under the treatment of native medical officers, even though the latter might

have graduated in Medicine in England. For the same reason, Government is slow to extend the elective system to the municipalities in this country. This attitude of jealousy towards educated natives is greatly to be deplored.

22. The *Uchit Baktá*, of the 13th August, observes that the tramway to Bhowanipore should pass along the Russa road, instead of the Kalighat road, as the latter is as narrow as the Chitpore street.

UCHIT BAKTA,
August 13th, 1881.

23. The *Sar Sudhánidhi*, of the 15th August, complains of the scantiness and irregularity in the supply of filtered water in Barabazar. This causes extreme inconvenience to the inhabitants of the ward.

SAR SUDHANIDHI,
August 15th, 1881.

RAJKRISHNA MUKHOPADHYAYA, M.A. & B.L.,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

The 20th August 1881.

